

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING0
TOWN HALL HEARING ROOM
2/12/14

ATTENDEES:

Deyst	White*	Caccavaro*	Kellar*	McKenna*
DeCoursey	Connors	Simmons*	Gibian*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Bayer*	Ronan*	
Kardon*	Beck	Jones*	Deshler*	
Franclemont*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Turkall*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Vision 2020 Co-Chairs Brucie Molton, Mary Harrison, Vision 2020 Planning Liaison Joey Glusko, Bruce Fitzgibbons, Council on Aging Executive Secretary Susan Karp, Director of Human Services Christine Bongiorno

MINUTES of 2/10/14 approved as corrected.

ART 35 VISION 2020 BUDGET: Molton requested a \$5000 budget to pay for printing and other expenses related to the activities of the organization (Ref 1). These expenses had been previously covered by the Planning Department and by the members themselves. Molton said this would be a disincentive for some residents. She said the annual survey printing costs had been covered by CDBG but might not be covered in the future. Members asked questions about the history of Vision 2020 and the value of the contributions made to the Town. One comment was that the survey may have out lived its usefulness. In subsequent discussion, members questioned the details in Ref 1 and suggested that the budget should be more in line with other committees. Some members thought that this activity, if important, should be in the Planning budget. VOTED \$3000, 9-8. The Chair noted that if the cost of printing the survey is dropped from CDBG, the FinCom might consider reconsidering its recommendation.

ART 40 HARRY BARBER COMMUNITY SERVICE: Karp reviewed this program (Ref2) saying that it builds ties between departments and residents. She said the Town benefits from the skills these people offer. In addition the program offers a variety of benefits to the seniors who participate. In FY13, 6 of the 10 positions were filled. This year Karp expects all 10 will be filled. In subsequent discussion, members suggested that this is a make work program. If valuable it should be in the various department budgets. Others said that it was like hiring a temp to do a job that required special skills. VOTED \$7500. 14-2

MM REGIONAL AGREEMENT: Foskett noted that Kardon pointed out a wording flaw which is being corrected. Foskett also stated that he thinks the proposed agreement is better for Arlington than the present agreement because of proportional voting and because there is a path to withdraw. The Legislature must pass on the broadening of membership to include cities and to allow the district to include some capital costs in tuition student fees.

BUD 1 FINCOM: GenGov SubCom (Howard) recommended the budget as printed. VOTED \$11,824 Unanimous

BUD 10 LEGAL: GenGov SubCom (McKenna) recommended the budget as printed. He briefly summarized the SubCom's meeting with the new Town Counsel. VOTED \$ 444,767 Unanimous

BUD 11 TOWN CLERK: GenGov SubCom (McKenna) recommended the budget as printed. The Committee verified that the Clerk's budgets were within the 3.5% growth cap. VOTED \$262,327 Unanimous

BUD 12 REGISTRARS: GenGov SubCom (McKenna) recommended the budget as printed. He noted that the Clerk is working with the Manager to apply computer technology to the department's record keeping. VOTED \$57,664 Unanimous.

BUD 18b POLCE: PubSafe SubCom (Simmons) recommended the budget as printed. He summarized the number of officers at each level. The Quinn Bill expense is being phased out since it is not available to new officers.

VOTED \$7,504,562 Unanimous

RECREATION EF: LibHumSer SubCom(Franclemont) reviewed the activities of this enterprise fund. There is \$97K in the fund. She recommended the budget as printed. She (later) reported that line 5299 is the budget for credit card processing fees and custodian overtime.

VOTED Revenue \$589,200, Expenses \$589,003 for a balance of \$197. Unanimous

RESERVE FUND: \$664,414:.

Peter Howard 2/17/14

cc FinCom Members, Town Web Site

Ref 1 Proposed Vision 2020 Budget

Ref 2 Harry Barber Community Service.

PROPOSED 2014-15 VISION 2020 BUDGET

Statements of Need for Budget

Vision 2020 is a town bylaw-enabled partnership which, through volunteers, provides benefits to the town as its Task Groups work to support the town goals.

Vision 2020's activities incur significant costs that are currently not addressed through a formal budget; volunteers pay for many of these costs from their own resources.

A defined budget is critical to Vision 2020's continued success as a stimulator of volunteer service to the town through Vision 2020 and collaborating organizations.

Budget Categories

Amounts Requested

Outreach and Volunteer Recruiting

Purpose : Educate and inform residents and town leaders about matters important to the town; engage residents with town government, recruit volunteers to support town goals.

Census Insert Survey: updating of survey data collection software	* \$ 1,000.00
One-time software upgrade cost with benefit for multiple years	
Town and Community Event Participation	1,400.00
	\$ 2,400.00

General Operating Costs for Standing Committee and Task Groups

Purpose : Provide base line support for Vision 2020 Standing Committee and Task Groups

Copying: Reports to Town Meeting, Task Group reports, manuals, agendas, minutes, brochures for Vision 2020 and Town Goals, etc.	1,600.00
Materials: Display boards, easel, display table, signs, replacement of Vision 2020 banner, Town Day activity materials, table covers, various colors and sizes of paper for copied materials, marker pens, etc	1,000.00
	2,600.00
TOTAL REQUEST	\$ 5,000.00

Comments about the Vision 2020 Survey (which is not part of this budget)

Funding of \$3,400 for printing of the town census insert survey/outreach will be sought through CDBG application and so is not included in this budget; however, cuts in CDBG funding may necessitate an alternative plan for providing the survey.

The survey is mailed with the Town Census, so postage is not included in this budget or in the CDBG funding. In 2014 the piggyback mailing saved about \$9,000, which was paid by the Town.

Volunteers donate about 400 hours to the entire survey process, a value of about \$8,856 based on Independent Sector's estimated 2012 average national value of volunteer time: \$22.14/hour.

We are looking to upgrade the survey software at an estimated cost of \$1,000.*

Ref 2

Harry Barber Community Service

FY14: Ten positions available, \$750 each for a total of \$7,500

Request for FY15: Continue to offer Ten (10) positions, maximum earnings \$750 pp for a total budget of \$7,500

Many communities in the Commonwealth have adopted MGL Chapter 59, sub section 5k, known as The Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Abatement Program. Arlington has not adopted this law into Town By-Laws, however created The Harry Barber Community Service Program in 1997, providing employment for a specific number of Arlington seniors; including home owners and renters. There are qualifying income guidelines and the Harry Barber (HB) approved applicant may not earn more than \$750.00 per year through this program.

This program is supervised by the Executive Director of the Council on Aging and is managed on a first come first served basis.

Harry Barber participants have been placed in the Library, School District, Police Department, and the Council on Aging. Currently placements are working at the Council on Aging with placements pending through the School District and Library. Placement locations have reported the relationship with the Harry Barber participant and the "job", have been excellent. The benefits to the Arlington community are great:

1. Municipal departments fill a void where budgets are lacking
2. Municipal departments may use the HB participant to complete special projects or conversely, free up time of a regular employee to work on special projects
3. The cost benefit exceeds the program costs; the municipality pays \$8 per hour for a HB participant to perform work providing a cost savings to the town of Arlington
4. Provides older adults an opportunity to develop new transferable skills
5. Provides the older adult an opportunity to contribute to the town in a meaningful way
6. Provides all ages in Arlington an opportunity to see older adult as viable, contributing members of the town
7. Provides peer leadership to those older adults who might feel as though they are no longer viable community members
8. Helps break down ageism
9. Provides the retired senior a small means of income to offset the rising expenses in housing, food, fuel, or social engagement
10. Provides some seniors funds where social service support falls short due to income guidelines

The Board of the Council on Aging along with the Executive Director highly endorses the Harry Barber Community Service Program for seniors in the Town of Arlington. Given the increase in requests, we are certain, if approved, that all ten (10) positions will be filled in FY14.